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## On Strawberry Hill: Transcendent Love of Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling

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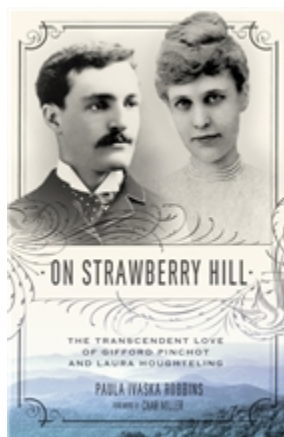
and also will thank Mae and Rain and Hope for the work they gave us.

Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries. See the additional resources and index (pg. 203 to 211).

*Carol Walker Jordan*

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**On Strawberry Hill: The Transcendent Love of Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling.** Paula Ivaska Robbins. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2017. ISBN 978-0-8173-9094-5 (ebook); 978-0-8173-5894-5 (hard). 136 p. \$19.95.



In her Acknowledgements section of *On Strawberry Hill: The Transcendent Love of Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling*, Paula Robbins credits her strong dependency upon “the wonderfully knowledgeable and helpful archivists of the Buncombe County Pack Library North Carolina Room”.

The setting of the development of Gifford Penchant’s career was in the mountains of North Carolina in West Asheville where he followed his desire to become a forester and convince others that forest management was a national issue. Laura Houghteling was a patient suffering from consumption and living with a family in Asheville where the environmental conditions were said to be conducive to better health. So begins the story...a handsome young man walking and studying the landscapes and a young woman living in a mansion on a hill looking out her window and seeing him.

Imagine the challenge Robbins confronted to tell a story of the personal lives of two individuals, two families, many historical figures, the building of the Biltmore Estate landscapes and the Pisgah Forest, nation building during the time of the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and of William H. Taft, a wave of American Spiritualism and rise and fall of American progressive and conservative movements. From her extensive thirteen pages of bibliographic notes and nine black and white illustrations, it is clear there may be many knowledgeable and helpful

librarians and research sites that fueled Robbins artistic crafting of her manuscript.

To be able to provide alluringly descriptive prose to tell Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling’s relationship story, Robbins reveals a multitude of research sites, interviews, conversations and collaborations that will be of keen interest to students of the environment, the politics of conservation, spiritualism, and the history of medical challenges such as consumption, tuberculosis, and the treatments for patients in the late 1850s and early 1900s.

Recommended for public libraries, academic libraries and special collections of history of North Carolina.

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**Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the American Civil War.** Catherine Clinton. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8071-6457-0. 160 p. \$27.50.



The representation of southern women, during and in the aftermath of the Civil War, is varied and complex. In *Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the American Civil War*, Catherine Clinton integrates recent scholarship and historical research to provide a more revealing portrayal of women’s wartime participation. Dividing the book into three sections, the author explores the postwar narrative of southern white women who fashioned their own “Lost Cause” legacy, and of southern black women, whose legacy was formed for them.

In the book’s first section, “Band of Sisters,” Clinton addresses how southern white women formed a “collective identity” through shared sacrifices and wartime experiences. This “band of sisters” remained stoic, supportive, prayerful, and patriotic as their men came back diseased, dismembered, or not at all. Crossing socio-economic boundaries, they ranged from upper-class women who bore the administrative and supervisory responsibilities of plantations, to poor women who were faced with starvation, sickness, and assault. In many cases, their stalwart facades masked a deeper sense of betrayal